

Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville Offers Works by Members

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Resilience*, featuring works by Guild Members, on view in the Focus Gallery at the Folk Art Center, through Apr. 27, 2021.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild bounces back from an unprecedented year with *Resilience*, its first member-focused show of 2021. Disciplines include metalsmithing, quilting, hand-built & wheel thrown ceramics, woodcarving, and leather tooling. Members featured are Joseph Rhodes, Diana Ramsay, Lynn Fisher, Karen Nogle, Judy Brater, and Marion Schlauch.

Jewelry pieces in the exhibit are by artist Joseph Rhodes, "Following the show's theme of Resilience, gemstones are displayed in settings from the softest to hardest gems; amber being the softest, diamonds being the hardest."



Work by Lynn Fisher

expertise is throwing and mine is sculpture," states Brater. As COVID started to affect our businesses, instead of closing up shop, we got together and started collaborating on pieces - what has developed is a new approach to our individual styles, and has helped us to remain enthusiastic in our craft."

The Folk Art Center is located at Milepost 382 on the Blue Ridge Parkway in east Asheville. Headquarters to the Southern Highland Craft Guild, the Center also houses three galleries, a library, a craft shop and a Blue Ridge Parkway information desk and bookstore.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild is a non-profit, educational organization established in 1930 to cultivate the crafts and makers of the Southern Highlands for the purpose of shared resources, education, marketing and conservation. The Southern Highland Craft Guild is an authorized concessioner of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Guild at 828/298-7928 or visit (www.southernhighlandguild.org).



Work by Diana Ramsey

Clay sculptures on display are the collaborative work of Judy Brater and Marion Schlauch. "Marion and I have known and respected each other as female ceramic artists since 1980's. We have a combined experience of 100 years. Her

Center for Craft in Asheville, NC, Offers Group Exhibition

The Center for Craft in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Desire Paths*, a group exhibit, on view in the Bresler Family Gallery, through May 28, 2021.

Desire Paths looks at makers within the discourse of craft and those existing on the periphery of the craftscape who focus on the movement of the body towards something desirable. These desires of the body are in relationship to nature, technology, self, and society. Using architectural theory and queer curatorial strategies, *Desire Paths* examines the possibilities and futures of bodies, revealing connections between the corporeal and craft.

"Desire paths," a term taken from urban planning, are lines trodden in the landscape when constructed walkways do not provide a direct or desired route. Through action, repetition, and intentionality, desire paths are crafted modifications to the landscape that allow for a body to move towards a horizon. The format of the works include traditional craft media, performance, video, and interactive web-based work. Through this variety of media and performative tactics the makers in *Desire Paths* consider how we view, value, and ascribe meaning to a body/the body/the others body. They show us the power and agency held in body and present us with crafted visions of the body that confront and expand expectations

The works in this exhibition reclaim the concept of craft from its historical associations with the decorative, frivolous, feminine, indigenous, and the other. The makers use the medium of craft, and the action of crafting, to produce powerful



Mark Newport, "Redress," 2018. Image courtesy of Timothy Thayer.

representations and counter narratives to dominant culture.

The Center is offering free, unguided visits and affordable tours of its exhibitions to the public. Guests can reserve a 30-minute visit to explore the current exhibitions, learn more about the Center's national impact in their Craft Research Fund Study Collection, and enjoy interactive activities.

For further information check our NC Institutional Gallery listings, call the Center at 828/785-1357 or e-mail to (info@centerforcraft.org).

The deadline each month to submit articles, photos and ads is the 24th of the month prior to the next issue. This will be March 24th for the April 2021 issue and Apr. 24th for the May 2021 issue.

After that, it's too late unless your exhibit runs into the next month. But don't wait for the last minute - send your info now.

And where do you send that info?
E-mail to (info@carolinaarts.com).

Center for Craft in Asheville, NC, Offers Teacher/Student Exhibition

The Center for Craft in Asheville, NC, is presenting *Mirror/Mentor*, on view in the John Cram Partner Gallery, Through Mar. 12, 2021.

Mirror/Mentor brings together work by Warren Wilson College Art professor Lara Nguyen and three of her former students, Steven Horton Jr. (class of 2017), Sather Robinson-Waters (class of 2018), and Jess Self (class of 2014).

The diversity of media, styles, and themes in the art on view reflects Nguyen's philosophy of teaching and mentoring. For Nguyen, the idea of being a mentor who is a mirror does not mean producing students whose work mimics her own. Instead she follows the advice of her mother, who told her to set an example for her four younger siblings - mirror for them how to live fully in this world. As she worked, and sometimes struggled, to integrate the different layers of her own very full life, Nguyen discovered her students were as curious about this art of living as they were about learning artistic techniques and handling different media.

The terms of Nguyen's life changed when she was diagnosed with uterine

leiomyosarcoma cancer (uLMS) in 2018. Her works in this exhibition hold up a mirror to teach us her new reality: stage 4 cancer, incurable and terminal. The photo series *Un-Broken* pictures the scars from her own surgeries and the healed wounds of family and friends embellished in gold as a means of adornment and repair in the vein of the Japanese art of kintsugi. *In Brushes with Death*, the artist creates new tools from her own hair lost due to chemotherapy. The mixed media sculpture *Forbidden Grapefruit* is a new iteration of a poem written about her mother's journey, which became a series of performances and installations.

The body as vessel, trauma, a daily artistic practice, making as a means of social justice, and repurposing and repairing with the hopes of reemergence are among the overlapping themes that connect the works of these four artists - teacher and students.

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Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, Features New Member Exhibition

Asheville Gallery of Art in Asheville, NC, will present *Portraits of Imagination*, featuring works by new members: Chris Bell, Bill George, Hyn Patty, and Patricia Veatch, on display from Mar. 4 - 28, 2021.

This collection of art from Asheville Gallery of Art's new members explores the boundaries of portraiture beyond the expected with a variety of styles, mediums, and subjects.

Chris Bell, a life-long artist residing in Madison County, credits the discovery of alcohol ink in 2012 to a new chapter in her

art-making journey. She has utilized the extra studio time this past year to experiment with even more mediums, expanding her palette and creative possibilities. Her vivid animal paintings are a refreshing interpretation for this show, highlighting the almost magical qualities of our natural surroundings.

Bill George has an extensive background in both fine art and design, having started his own graphic design firm on Madison Avenue while living in New

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